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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/026,383	12/21/2001	Dennis J. Kahler	9D-EC-19763/064853-043	1015

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EXAMINER

LY, ANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/026,383

Applicant(s)

KAHLER ET AL.

Examiner

Anh Ly

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date #2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is response to Applicants' communications filed on 12/21/2001.
2. Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,295,513 issued to Thackston in view of US Patent No. 6,502,102 issued to Haswell et al. (hereinafter Haswell).

With respect to claim 1, Thackston teaches configuring a user- interface device to request initialization of a component design report for tracking a respective component design, said request including information indicative of a site coordinator responsible for coordinating the requested component design among a plurality of users

responsible for conducting said component design, said request further including information indicative of component drawings and documentation applicable to the component design (user interface for a plurality of users over a computer network, who through the GUI access and design the reports via the use of the virtual computer-aided design software (CAD): col. 4, lines 51-67 and col. 5, lines 1-28; also see col. 21, lines 61-67 and col. 22, lines 1-48; and col. 5, lines 55-67 and col. 6, lines 1-52);

transmitting the request to a data center over a communications network (see fig. 2, communication network for transmission data: col. 9, lines 25-42 and col. 11, lines 46-56);

providing an input/output device configured to provide access to said database to each user responsible for performing a given task to retrieve at least one design item requiring disposition and approval prior to proceeding to a next design stage, said at least one design item selected from the group consisting of component drawings and documentation applicable to the component design, said device further configured to gather data indicative of component measurements and comments regarding disposition of said at least one design item (input/output device (I/O) such as keyboard, hard drives, CD-ROM or mouse: col. 11, lines 12-24 and col. 21, lines 30-35 and also see fig. 2 and col. 38, lines 25-36; see fig. 24, retrieving design module or design reports by using an interactive system: col. 33, lines 1-10; component drawings and documentation and other components including in the CAD software package: see fig. 8 and fig. 9); and

generating a code indicative of a level of approval, or lack thereof, for said at

least one design item in view of the gathered data so that in the event approval is granted, the component design can be advanced to the next design stage, and, in the event approval is denied, corrective actions are identified to remove any design deviations and obtain any required approval prior to advancing to the next design stage (an approval authority to get permissions to limited access to the portions of the design module: col. 15, lines 4-45 and col. 17, lines 1-32).

Thackston teaches using the tools in the virtual computer aided design (CAD) to design reports including drawings, written specifications and documentation (see figs. 8 and 9, col. 4, lines 1-4, col. 5, lines 55-67 and col. 6, lines 1-62) and a network-based system interfacing multiple users systems through a central server to undertake the design development effort (col. 4, lines 51-67 and col. 5, lines 1-28; also see col. 21, lines 61-67 and col. 22, lines 1-48). Thackston teaches databases containing information for user to retrieve the desired design reports and may be configured to stored information for business transactions pertaining to the engineering development effort based on the federal acquisition statutes and regulations (col. 12, lines 52-67 and col. 13, lines 1-10; also see col. 38, lines 55-67). Thackston does not explicitly teach providing a database configured to store the request transmitted to the data center, the database further configured to store a plurality of business rules associated with the respective component design and processing the request relative to the business rules in the database to post each component design report to users responsible for performing tasks for advancing the component design through at least one of the design stages.

However, Haswell teaches a database including business rules to be accessed, see fig. 7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Thackston with the teachings of Haswell so as to have a database storing business rules to be accessed from the users of the system. The motivation being to have a database for storing the rules or regulations from which the design component is associated with those rules for design development in the several phases of the engineering design development effort over a network based system connection with multiple users.

With respect to claim 2, Thackston teaches further comprising populating the database with previously performed component design reports for each respective component of the machine (software component for design report module: see fig. 21, col. 35, lines 62-67 and col. 36, lines 16).

With respect to claim 3, Thackston teaches wherein the user-interface device includes a data field configurable for conducting a report search based on one or more search parameters, with at least one of said search parameters selected from the group consisting of report initiator, site coordinator, component name, drawing number, report number, machine type, present status of report, supplier of the component, any user identified as a point of contact for any given report, and site responsible for the component design (see figs 8 and 9, col. 1, lines 40-58 and col. 5, lines 55-67 and col. 6, lines 1-52).

With respect to claim 4, Thackston teaches wherein the user-interface device

includes a clickable icon for electronically copying files from an existing report including component drawings and documentation usable for a new component design report (using may use the mouse to copy the file from the display screen or GUI from the CAD with associated tools: col. 14, lines 6-30 and see fig. 8; also see col. 14, lines 6-30).

With respect to claim 5, Thackston teaches wherein the user-interface device includes a clickable icon for accessing a working list including each component design report and associated tasks that require action from a respective user (the list of project data: col. 21, lines 20-35).

With respect to claim 6, Thackston teaches wherein the user-interface device includes a clickable icon for accessing a list indicative of the status of each respective component design report and tasks associated therewith (col. 21, lines 20-35; col. 27, lines 22-35 and col. 38, lines 15-36).

Claim 7 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a computerized system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

Claim 8 is essentially the same as claim 2 except that it is directed to a computerized system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 2 hereinabove.

Claim 9 is essentially the same as claim 3 except that it is directed to a computerized system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 3 hereinabove.

Claim 10 is essentially the same as claim 4 except that it is directed to a computerized system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 4 hereinabove.

Claim 11 is essentially the same as claim 5 except that it is directed to a computerized system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 5 hereinabove.

Claim 12 is essentially the same as claim 6 except that it is directed to a computerized system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 6 hereinabove.

Claim 13 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a computer-readable medium rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

Claim 14 is essentially the same as claim 2 except that it is directed to a computer-readable medium rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 2 hereinabove.

Claim 15 is essentially the same as claim 3 except that it is directed to a computer-readable medium rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 3 hereinabove.

Claim 16 is essentially the same as claim 4 except that it is directed to a computer-readable medium rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 4 hereinabove.

Claim 17 is essentially the same as claim 5 except that it is directed to a computer-readable medium rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 5 hereinabove.

Claim 18 is essentially the same as claim 6 except that it is directed to a computer-readable medium rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 6 hereinabove.

Art Unit: 2172

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is 703 306-4527 or via E-Mail: ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on 703 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703 746-7239.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: Central Office (703) 872-9306 (Central Official Fax Number)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-6606 or 703 305-3900.

ANH LY 
MAY 4th, 2004


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER